

## NOTES

*Zizyphus oligantha* Merr. & Perry is a synonym of *Z. oenopolia* (L.) Mill. (Rhamnaceae)

*Zizyphus oenopolia* (L.) Mill. was originally described from material illustrated from Sri Lanka and has a wide distribution from Sri Lanka south through Malesia into New Guinea and northern Australia. In Australia, *Z. oenopolia* (L.) Mill. occurs in the top end of the Northern Territory and the far north of Cape York Peninsula in Queensland, and has been infrequently recorded from adjacent southern Papua New Guinea (Map 1).

Examination of material of *Z. oenopolia* in the Queensland Herbarium and of an isotype of *Z. oligantha* Merr. & Perry (Merrill & Perry 1939) found that the latter taxon was conspecific with the first. *Z. oligantha* is here formally reduced to synonymy of *Z. oenopolia*.

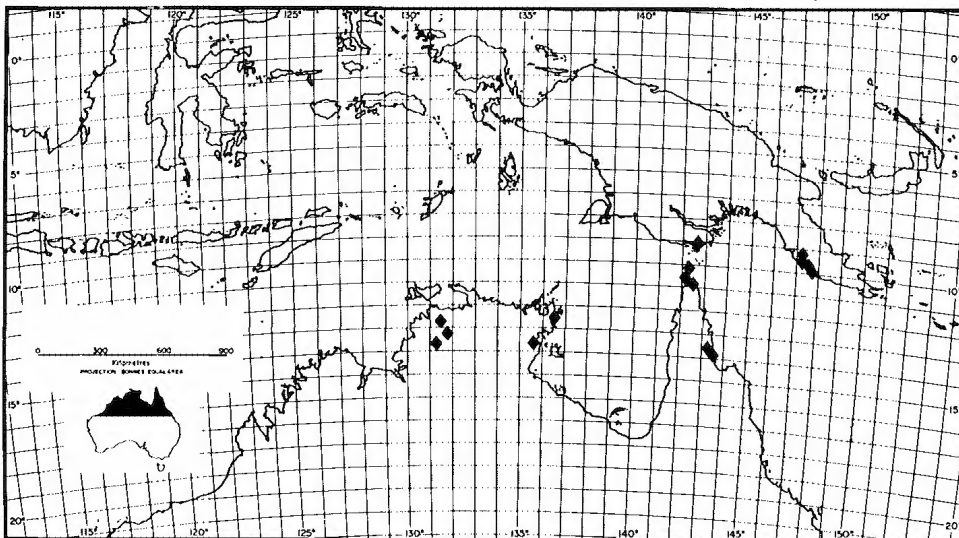
When Linnaeus (1753) named *Rhamnus oenopolia* L. he did not cite any specimens. However he did mention that the plant he was dealing with originated in Ceylon, and cited "Burm. zeyl. 131 t. 61". This plate is therefore selected lectotype for the name.

Most authors subsequent to Linnaeus, when mentioning this plant, have spelt the specific epithet as "oenoplia". However there seems no reason to maintain this error, despite its long standing in the literature.

*Zizyphus oenopolia* (L.) Mill., Gard. dict. ed. 8, n. 3 (1768); *Rhamnus oenopolia* L., Sp. Pl. 194 (1753). Type: J. Burm., Thes. zeyl. 131, t. 61 (1737) (lecto (here designated)). "Zizyphus oenoplia", DC., Prodr. 2: 21 (1825); Benth., Fl. austral. 1: 412 (1863); Bailey, Queensl. fl. 1: 268 (1899); Brock, Top End Native Pl. 337 (1988).

*Zizyphus oligantha* Merr. & Perry, J. Arnold Arb. 20: 338 (1939), **synon. nov.** Type: Papua New Guinea. WESTERN PROVINCE: Mabaduan, April 1936, *L.J. Brass* 6488 (iso: BRI!).

**Selected specimens:** Sri Lanka. CENTRAL PROVINCE: Kandy District, c. 1 mile W of Hunnasingiriya, near mile post 20/11, Nov 1974, *Davidse & Jayasuriya* 8377 (BRI). Malaysia. PAHANG: Bukit Chemaga, Chegar Perak, Oct 1927, *Henderson* 19470 (BRI). Papua New Guinea. CENTRAL PROVINCE: Brown River road, near Terr. forest boundary, 9°10'S, 147°15'E, Jan 1967, *Kairo & Streimann* [NGF28000] (BRI); Near Mt Lawes, 9°10'S, 147°15'E, Mar 1971, *Womersley* [NGF43707] (BRI); Tavai Ck, 9°30'S, 147°20'E, Dec 1964, *Gillison* [NGF22100] (BRI). MILNE BAY PROVINCE: Rigo, *Turner* [AQ109979] (BRI). Australia. Northern Territory. NE Arnhem Land, 2 km NW Yirrkala, 12°14'S, 136°52'E, Feb 1988, *Wightman* 4148 (BRI); Beatrice Hill, 40 miles [66.7 km] SE of Darwin, Mar 1961, *Chippendale* [NT7928] (BRI); Mary River, 13°09'S, 131°51'E, May 1989, *Dunlop* 8391 & *Wilson* (BRI); Mary River, near Mt Bundey, Dec 1968, *Byrnes* 998 (BRI); Bennett Bay, Eastern Arnhem Land, 13°42'S, 135°52'E, Nov 1987, *Russell-Smith* 4226 & *Lucas* (BRI); 3 km W Mt Muriel, Tipperary, 13°54'S, 131°10'E Mar 1989,



Map 1. Distribution of *Zizyphus oenopolia* (L.) Mill. in Australia and New Guinea.

*Russell-Smith 7952 & Brock* (BRI). Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: Badu Is, Torres Strait, Jan 1980, *Garnett 355* (BRI); Thursday Is, Jun 1897, *Bailey 159* (BRI); Hammond Is, Jun 1897, *Bailey 149* (BRI); Somerset, Jun 1897, *Bailey 39* (BRI); Lockerbie, 10 miles [16 km] WSW of Somerset, Apr 1948, *Brass 18398* (BRI); Lockerbie Scrub, 3 km past "Lockerbie" Homestead, 10°47'S, 142°29'E, Feb 1990, *Forster 6330* (BRI,DNA,QRS); Upper Massey Ck, Oct 1962, *Smith 11748* (BRI); On road between Peach Ck and Leo Ck, c. 30–40 miles [50–66.7 km] NE of Coen, 13°44'S, 143°15'E, *Webb & Tracey 9883* (BRI).

**Habitat:** In Australia and southern Papua New Guinea, *Zizyphus oenopolia* grows on the margins of deciduous to semi-deciduous vineforest on red soils or may occur in adjacent savannah.

#### Acknowledgements

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#### References

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